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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP, PM/ISO AND PM/PPA

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TAGS: [PBTS](#) [PHSA](#) [PRELMU](#) [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [MU](#)
SUBJECT: OMAN ON COUNTER-PIRACY EFFORTS

REF: STATE 126055

Classified By: AMBASSADOR GARY A. GRAPPO FOR REASONS 1.4 (b, d)

¶1. (C) In a December 2 meeting between a visiting U.S. CENTCOM Assessment Team (CAT) and MFA Secretary General Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi, the discussion turned to the topic of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and counter-piracy efforts. Sayyid Badr explained that Oman and its maritime industry has yet to be seriously affected by the piracy in the Horn of Africa region. That said, Oman intends to be part of efforts to counter the growing problem. At this time, Sayyid Badr continued, Oman does not have the navy or coast guard capabilities to contribute to patrols in the Horn of Africa region, but does have both secure sea ports and air bases that could be of use to support counter-piracy operations. Oman is also involved multilaterally and would attend a counter-piracy International Maritime Organization (IMO) meeting in Djibouti. Prompted on how Oman might participate in the detention and prosecution of pirates captured at sea (or persons under control/PUCs), Sayyid Badr responded that Oman should be able to handle any pirates caught in Omani territorial waters. Beyond that Sayyid Badr was unclear what Oman's international legal obligations would be, noting this would require legal review. In any case, he assured, Oman would be ready to help deal with the growing piracy problem.

¶2. (C) The Ambassador also broached the piracy issue with Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi in a December 6 conversation. Aside from the PUC response, bin Alawi's views closely followed those of Sayyid Badr and highlighted planned Omani participation at the Djibouti meeting.

¶3. (C) Comment: It is clear from these conversations that Oman wants to be part of the solution to the piracy threat. Post recommends that Oman be included in any U.S.-led effort to address piracy in the region. End Comment.
GRAPPO